

Top UN aid official for greater oil sector investment in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26: Greater investment in Iraq's oil industry is absolutely essential to generate enough money to meet the country's needs for food and medicine, the head of the UN humanitarian aid programme in Iraq said Thursday, reports AP.

Benon Sevan told the Security Council that weak crude oil prices have undermined efforts to increase funding for humanitarian aid for 22 million Iraqis living under UN sanctions.

Similarly, efforts to shore up Iraq's dilapidated oil infrastructure by allowing Baghdad to purchase equipment and spare parts through the UN oil-for-food programme won't have any impact before March 2000, Sevan said.

The programme, launched in 1996, allows Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil — \$5.2 billion

over six months — to buy humanitarian aid. Of that, Iraq can purchase \$600 million to buy spare parts.

Sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait cannot be lifted until UN weapons inspectors report Baghdad has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad regards the oil-for-food programme as a tool wielded by Washington to justify the continuation of sanctions. It wants sanctions lifted immediately.

With pressure rising to lift or ease trade sanctions, the debate over whether and how to extend the oil-for-food programme beyond its current expiration May 25 is sure to encompass elements of the larger political struggle.

France has already proposed doing away with the oil em-

bargo, allowing greater investment in Iraq's oil industry, and controlling oil revenues to ensure they are not diverted to weapons production.

"Everybody on the council is agreed that there needs to be a radical review of how we approach the humanitarian situation in Iraq, and we're ready to contribute to that," said Britain's UN Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock.

In the briefing, Sevan dismissed a US proposal to allow Iraq to sell unlimited amounts of oil under the programme as "simply an academic exercise unless bold, imaginative and pragmatic alternatives for investment in Iraq's oil industry are considered by the council."

A panel of UN humanitarian experts, created after the December US-British airstrikes, is expected to hold his first

meeting next week and make recommendations on improving the humanitarian situation in Iraq by April 15.

Although Iraq is allowed to sell \$5.2 billion in oil over six months, low oil prices mean that it will probably only generate \$3 billion by May, according to a report this week by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Since one-third of every oil-for-food dollar goes into a fund to compensate Gulf War victims, only about \$2 billion is left for humanitarian aid.

"Therefore, we are really not moving forward," Sevan said. "It is time for the council and governments concerned to start looking for alternative measures to start financing the requirements for the oil industry in Iraq in order to be able to increase the output and exports."

More bank mergers in Europe predicted

AMSTERDAM, Feb 26: The Chairman of ABN Amro Bank, Jan Kalff, yesterday predicted yet more mergers and takeovers in the European banking industry over the coming years, reports AFP.

"We are at the start and not at the end of a wave of consolidations... there will be an awful lot more in the future than there have been in the past," Kalff said during a press conference after the release of ABN Amro's 1998 results.

"We (ABN Amro) are going to concentrate especially on Europe and North America... and particularly on the European," Kalff said, explaining that there were no longer any possibilities for expansion in the Dutch market.

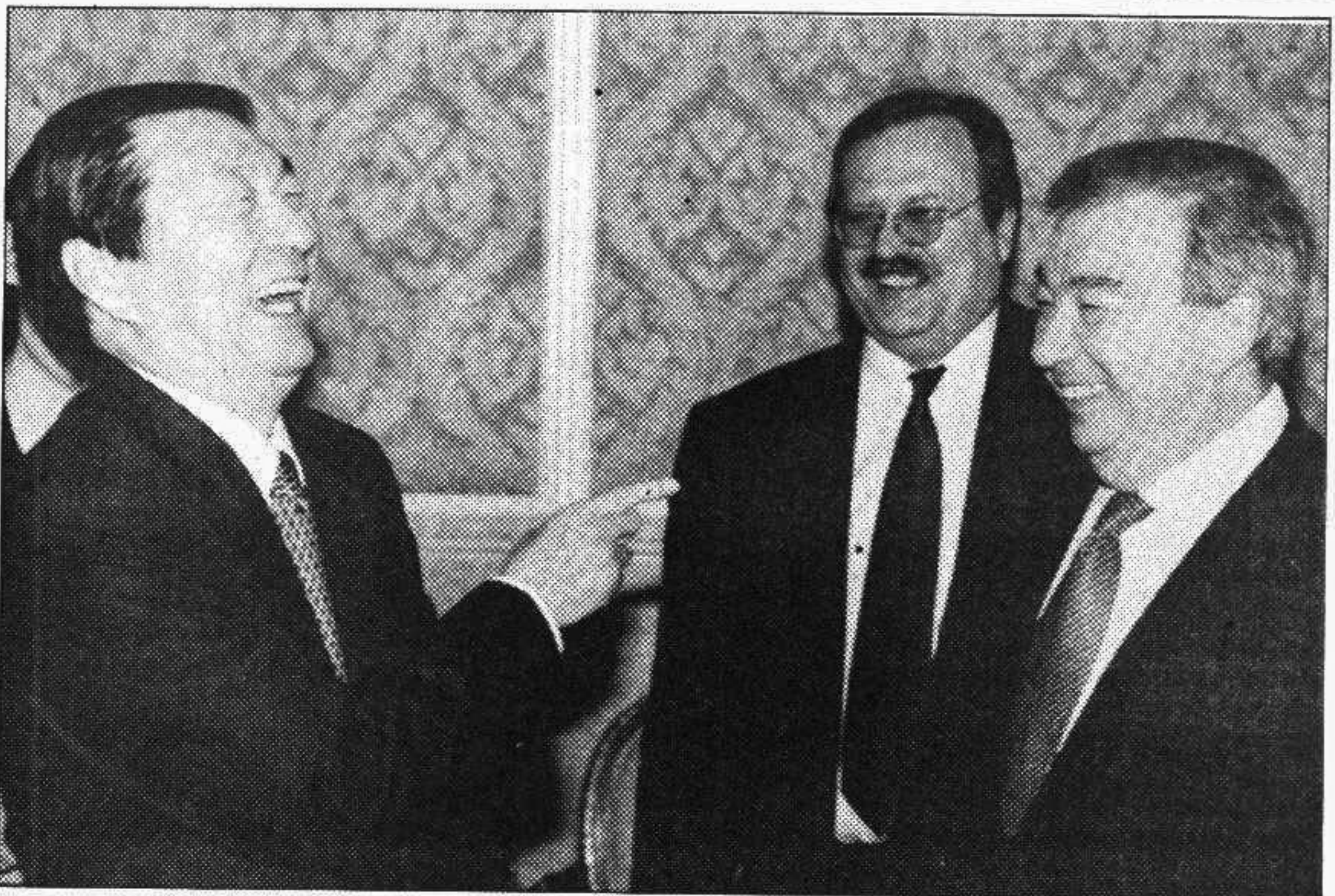
"Europe is a very important part of the world and it is very stable. It is obvious we will be looking for critical mass there," he stressed.

"It is still possible to gain a million clients abroad, particularly through buying a bank," the head of the biggest Dutch bank said.

Kalff did not specify which countries ABN Amro would be focussing on, saying simply: "In Germany there are still about 1,000 banks, in France also, in Italy there are about 900. The number is far too high so there will be mergers and takeovers."

The European market is not as uniform as in the United States... you sometimes have to start with a minority stake and increase towards a majority or otherwise from a partnership with another company."

ABN Amro missed out on two takeovers last year. The bank was an unsuccessful candidate in the takeover of the French banking group Credit Industriel ET Commercial (CIC) when it was privatised in April.



Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov (R) and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji laugh during their meeting in Moscow on Thursday. Russia and China signed 11 agreements aimed at boosting sagging trade ties during Zhu's visit. — AFP photo

HK exports drop 6.6pc

HONG KONG, Feb 26: Hong Kong's exports fell 6.6 per cent in value in January compared with the previous year, hit by slowing import demand from the United States, figures released today showed, reports AFP.

The value of total exports, comprising re-exports and domestic exports, in the month fell to 106.9 billion Hong Kong Dollars (13.8 billion US dollars), the Census and Statistics Department said.

Within this total, the value of re-exports decreased by 6.3 per cent to 92.9 billion dollars, while the value of domestic exports decreased by 8.9 per cent to 14.0 billion dollars.

The value of imports decreased by 5.0 per cent over a year earlier to 107.5 billion dollars in January 1999.

A government secretariat spokesman said the export performance in January was affected by moderated import demand in the United States and in a number of European markets.

He said import demand in Japan also remained "distinctly weak."

China to boost gold production

BEIJING, Feb 26: China will boost domestic gold production by a meagre 1.5 per cent this year in the hopes of curbing an increasing imbalance between supply and demand, official media reports said today, reports AFP.

China's projected production of 175 tonnes of gold for 1999 — compared with last year's 172.8 tonnes — is in stark contrast to the 10 per cent annual growth rate of the past quarter century.

The declining demand for the precious metal is a result of the rapid increase in China's foreign exchange reserves in the post Mao period while the amount of gold reserves remained unchanged. Xinhua news agency said.

Prior to the 1980s, gold reserved had constituted as much as 90 per cent of China's flagging foreign exchange reserves.

Reckless mining and backward technology have also led to waste and limited production in many of the country's 1,200 gold mines, according to Liu Shan'en, Deputy Director of the Gold Economic Development Research Centre.

China's 397 tonnes of gold reserves now account for less than three per cent of the country's 140 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserves, the report said.

US steel imports continue to fall

WASHINGTON, Feb 26: US steel imports declined in January for the second straight month, the Commerce Department announced here yesterday citing preliminary estimates, says AFP.

Steel imports were down 6.7 per cent from December to 2.4 million tonnes. Imports in December were 29 per cent lower than the previous month.

The department said that compared with January 1998, steel imports increased 5.6 per cent for all of 1998 steel imports increased 33.2 per cent over 1997 to 37.7 million tonnes.

Last year's import surge triggered sharp protests and warning from the US steel industry that its future was imperiled by a flood of foreign-made steel sold in the United States at "dumping" prices, well below cost of production.

An alliance of steel compa-

nies and trade unions mounted a high-profile campaign to pressure the US administration to take action. The initiative resulted in an announcement earlier this month by the Commerce Department of plans to slap "anti-dumping" duties on hot-rolled steel exported here from Brazil and Japan.

The department on Monday said it had worked out an agreement with Russia, also targeted by the US steel industry, under which Russian hot-rolled steel imports will be suspended for six months this year.

Steel imports from Japan dropped four per cent in January to 379,727 tonnes after falling 47.3 per cent in December.

Imports from Russia during January were down 70.3 per cent to 45,048 tonnes, compared with a 77.3 per cent decline in the previous month.

Foreign investment in South Africa up 9pc

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 26: South Africa received significantly more foreign investment last year despite fears of violent crime, election uncertainty and a collapse of confidence in emerging markets. The Star paper reported yesterday, says Xinhua.

About 17.2 billion rand (2.8 billion US dollars) was invested in South Africa in 1998, nine per cent up from 1997, independent consultant business map said on Wednesday.

However, if the devaluation of the rand is taken into account, the figure represents a moderate decrease from the previous year.

Europe remained the major source of investment, for South Africa, and Malaysia was the biggest investor mainly because of a 4-billion-rand (656-million-dollar) purchase of South Africa fuel giant Engen by the Malaysian state oil group, Petronas.

Italians joined the country's investor list and occupied third place on arrival. The United States dropped to fourth place from its previous No one position, the report said.

Much of the investment last year was through mergers and acquisitions, and foreign investors began to show an inter-

est in new sectors such as mining and construction, it said.

However, economists said South Africa still had to do more to woo long-term capital, as investors were concerned about crime level and costly labour in the country.

Crime statistics show that South Africa has one of the worst rates for murder and rape in the world. The image was even more tarnished recently when a prominent Korean businessman was murdered in Johannesburg and dozens of American tourists were rebbed at knife-point.

Other corners include labour policy, taxation, skills shortages, immigration hurdles and governance, business map said.

South Africa is battling a balance of payments and current account deficit and must borrow from abroad to finance the shortfall in domestic savings.

It needs capital to invest in the economy to lift growth, which slumped in the final quarter of last year into full recession.

Economists said the corporate tax reduction from 35 per cent to 30 per cent announced in the 1999/2000 budget last week would help create a favourable investment environment.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT						
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 26-2-99						
Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of Leaving arrival	
J/1	Multon	Rice (P)	Kara	BSC	30/1	28/2
J/2	Orient Bliss	Rice(P)	Kand	AASS	02/02	1/3
J/3	Jiang Chuan	Q	Shang	Bdship	17/2	2/3
J/4	Lecna	Q	Sing	Prog	20/2	2/3
J/5	Elkon	Wheat(P)	P. Said	PSAL	11/1	26/2
J/7	Sea World	Wheat(G)	K. Dia	Lams	R/A	26/2
J/9	Yang Lin	Q	Sing	Bdship	1/2	28/2
J/10	Gelogy					
	Kovalchuk	Rice(P)	Kaki	SMSL	7/2	2/3
J/11	Sylvia	Rice (G)	Kand	USTC	30/1	24/2
J/13	Sea Success-1	Cont	Sing	RSL	20/2	28/2
CC/1	Qc Mallard	Cont	Sing	QCSL	19/2	27/2
CC/3	Rota Singa	Cont	Sing	PI (BD)	17/2	26/2
RM/15	Albattross-III	Rice(P)	Kand	SMSL	16/2	4/3
CSJ	Banglar Gourab	Wheat(G)	-	BSC	R/A	-
TSP	Kyong Song R. Phos	Zahan	Meve	9/2	1/3	-
DOJ	Banglar					
	Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	-
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6/9528/10/95	-
RM/8	Well Speeder	C. Clink	Sing	PSAL	28/1	28/2
RM/9	Banglar Mookh	Repair	K. Dia	Frank	R/A	25/2
SM/10	Tug Ocean Silver-8	-	-	ILAPSL	R/A	-
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Mala	BPSL	15/2	-
Kaico(U)	General Mojica	Urea	-	ANCL	13/2	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage:						
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port	
Sarah-1	27/2/99	Kara	SMSL	Rice(P)	Q	
Halina	26/2/99	Kand	MHCSL	Rice (G)	-	
Tac Dong Gang	23/2/99	-	USTC	Cement	-	
Ocean Merit	25/2/99	-	Jaycee	Cement	-	
Martina	25/2/99	-	Viking	Cement	-	
Makassar						
Express (cont)	16/2	25/2/99	Col	Baridhi	Q	L/ Col
Sale Star	25/2/99	-	-	Oil	Cont	-
Buxmoon						
(Cont) 20/2	27/2/99	Sing	Qesl	Cont	L/ Sing	
Cury	25/2/99	-	Sinni	For Scraping	-	
Kota Anga						
(Cont) 17/2	28/2/99	Sing	PI (BD)	Cont	L/ Sing	
Augusta-M						
(E/1) 17/2	26/2/99	Yang	OWSL	W/Ld J. good	L/ Latt	
Steapan Geys	26/2/00	Mum	Cross	Q	Rice/P	
Darya Ma	27/2/99	-	MSA	Wheat/P	Y. Peas	
Handy Jade	22/2/99	Sing	RML	C. Clink (CCJ)	-	
Ge lai (Cont) 14/2	28/2/99	Sing	QCSC	cont	L/ Mgl	
Bunga Mas Enam						
(Cont) 18/2	27/2/99	Sing	EOSL	Cont	L/ Singp. Kel	
Brisa Azul (48) 4/2	27/2/99	Sing	Everett	Q	-	
Hyok Sin	27/2/99	Sing	PSAL	Cement	-	
Sha he Kou	27/2/99	-	Kama	(W/Ld P. Cargo)	-	
Banglar Mamata						
(24) 17/2	1/3/99	Mong	BSC	Q	-	
Nurbulk Seraya	1/3/99	Mong	OWSL	Q	L/ Iraq	
Banga Birol						
(Cont) 22/2	2/3/99	sing	Bdship	Cont	L/ Sing	
Acacia (Cont) 22/2	1/3/99	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/ Sing	
Budi Teguh						
(Cont) 22/2	1/3/99	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/ sing	
Banglar Shikha						
(Cont) 22/2	2/3/99	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/ Sing	
Esco Virgo	3/3/99	Sing	Rainbow	GIWt	Cement	
Dragon Brani						
(Cont) 22/2	3/3/99	Sing	Nol	cont	L/ Sing	
Amra-Vil (48) 4/2	3/3/99	-	Everett	Q	-	
Dewan-1	4/3/99	-	AML	Rice(P)	-	
Ingenity						
(Cont) 17/1	10/3/99	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/ Sing	
Kota Berjaya						
(Cont) 22/2	4/3/99	Sing	PI (BD)	cont	L/ Sing	
Dragon Kalimantan						
(Cont) 22/2	5/3/99	sing	Nol	Cont	L/ sing	
A. Venture	5/3/99	-	Cla	Rice(P)	Q	
Kota Cahaya						
(Cont) 22/2	6/3/99	Sing	PI (BD)	Cont	L/ Sing	
Banglar Maya	10/3/99	-	BSC	For Repair	-	
Saw Pablo						
(rory) 24/2/2	13/3/99	Sing	Jf	Vehi	-	

Tanker due:			
Equator	27/2/99	BSL	Crude Oil
Sun Emerald	28/2/99	TSL	CPO (RM/4)
Grazda	28/2/99	Tsl	CDSO (RM/3/4)
Ocean Guard	2/3/99	Sing	HSD (RM/4)
Ocean Seal	2/3/99	Sing	ESCL
			Hsd(Rm/1)

Vessels at Kutubdia			
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port agent	Local arrival
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS R/A(25/10)

Vessels at outer anchorage:			
Ready on			
Banglar Asha	Wheat(G)	-	BSC R/A(24/1)
Banglar Shobha	Wheat(G)	-	BSC R/A(6/2)
Oh Shan Tok	Rice(G)	V. Pat	USTC 6/2
Al Swamruz	Wheat(G)	K. Dia	Frank R/A(10/2)
Commen cement	Rice(G)	Sing	Ancient 7/2
Banglar Urmi	Rice(G)	-	BSC R/2(5/2)
Topaz	Wheat(G)	K. Dia	Lams R/A(14/2)
Seagull Fortune	Wheat(G)	K. Dia	Frank R/A(15/2)
Galea-II	CDSO	P. Loues	Seacom 1/2
Shui Cheng	-	Q	INCH Bdship 15/2
Golden	Wheat(G)	K. Dia	Lams R/A(17/2)
Sea Coral	Rice(G)	Kand	USTC 17/2
Conny	CDSO	R. Uni	Seacom 19/2
Kota Abadi (Cont)	Cont	Sing	PI (BD) 20/2
Abuja	Cont	Col	Baridhi 21/2
Alpine	Q	Yang	SMSL 21/2
Qc Pintail	Cont	Sing	QCSC 22/2
Angel-II	CDSO	Parn	TSL R/A(21/2)
Xing Ye	Rice (G)	Hald	MHCSL 20/2
Xi Yun shan	Wheat(P)	Deru	Rainbow 19/2

Vessels not entering:			
Taraman Bibi	Cement	Pada	USTC 17/2
Cortesia Ducking	Scraping	Kaas	UMTL 8/2
Jollity	Ballast	Mong	- 12/2
Gumbet	Scraping	Inch	OTBL 22/2
Shubimi	Scraping	Sing	OTL 11/2

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.



আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিকেল কলেজ ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

বিষয় : ১৯৯৮-৯৯ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিকেল কলেজে এমবিবিএস কোর্সে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিকেল কলেজের ভর্তির বিবিধ পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৫ মার্চ ১৯৯৯ই-এর পর্বর্তি ১২ মার্চ ১৯৯৯ইং রোজ শুক্রবার অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। অন্যান্য নির্দেশাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৯৯/১০৮

ডিএসপি-৩৯১২-২৫/২

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প্রিগেডিয়ায়
অস্থায়ী কমান্ড্যান্ট
আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিকেল কলেজ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Local Government Engineering Department Rangpur Flood Rehabilitation (Urban Infrastructure) Project Tender Notice No 24/98-99

Memo No: LGED/XEN/Rangpur/555 Dated: 18/2/99

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has been received a credit from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of 1998 Flood Rehabilitation (Urban Infrastructure) Project for different pourashavas. The undersigned intends to take up different types of works under the said credit as shown below under the 1998-99 FY Implementation Programme. Sealed tenders for implementation of those works are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 and as per additional terms & conditions as appended in the document from the prequalified contractors of any project under LGED.

Interested contractors may obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 7-3-99 from any of the offices (i) The Project Director, Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II, LGED Bhaban (Level-7), Agargoan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, (ii) Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur (iii) Executive Engineer, LGED, Districts-Lalmoinhat/Kurigram/Gaibandha/ Nilphamari (iv) Municipal Engineer (XEN/AE), Rangpur pourashava on cash payment (non-refundable) after obtaining written approval from the respective offices for purchase of tender documents on showing documentary evidence of their contractors licence. Tenders will be received by the above mentioned offices up to 12:00 hours on 8-3-99. No tender will be accepted beyond this time and tenders will be opened at 12:30 hours on the same day in the receiving offices by the officers-in-charge in presence of the tenderers, if any.

Interested tenderers may collect necessary information regarding tender and work from the above mentioned office(s) during normal office hours on all working days. Tenders must be accompanied by all relevant papers and Earnest Money @ 2% (two per cent) of the estimated price of the work in favour of the undersigned.

Copy of VAT registration certificates must be enclosed along with the bid. Both Income Tax & VAT in respect